MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 FEBRUARY 1982

Syria

Security Situation -- Citing travelers' reports, Monte Carlo radio said fighting continued in Hamah on 19 February, albeit less intensively. The radio said more than 500 Muslim Brotherhood rebels in military uniforms were still resisting, using automatic weapons and mortars. It also noted that two fundamentalist opposition groups claimed responsibility for the 18 February blast at the Ministry of Information building in Damascus, which also houses the AL-BA'TH newspaper. According to AFP, one person was killed and 40 others were injured.

In statement reported by Damascus television on 21 February, an Information Ministry official said Hamah was completely quiet with no further acts of sabotage. He said investigations were continuing into the search campaign that began after a Muslim Brotherhood sabotage attempt. However, in a 19 February statement broadcast by Baghdad's Voice of Arab Syria Radio, the Islamic Revolution Command said the morale of the mujahidin in Hamah was still high and they continued to control strategic positions. Noting that four mosques and a number of houses and government buildings had been destroyed in the fighting inside the city, the statement said the rebels knocked out 70 government tanks and three defense squad centers. In another statement broadcast by the same radio, the Islamic Revolution Command urged Damascus residents to practice civil disobedience and to stay out of the streets to enable mujahidin to move more freely. Citizens should refuse to pay taxes, the statement said, and should close all commercial, industrial and educational establishments. It called on foreign diplomats in Damascus to break the "information blackout" by informing their governments about the "popular revolution" in Syria and to advise their subjects to stay away from areas of clashes.

Ba'th Party Statement, Press Comment -- Damascus radio broadcast a Ba'th Party National Command statement that lauded the coup of 23 February 1966, in which the party eliminated the "rightist" leadership. However, the rightists later took power in Iraq, the statement said, and the Baghdad rulers began plotting against Syria and gave the Muslim Brotherhood money and arms in order to force Syria to abandon its road of steadfastness. The radio also reported an ATH-THAWRAH editorial that accused the United States of resorting to open warfare against Syria's steadfastness and national unity. ATH-THAWRAH said the United States has been disappointed because the Syrian masses have liquidated the latest conspiracy by the Muslim Brotherhood, "the agent reserve of the CIA."

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that after several days of violent clashes in the northern city of Tripoli, a cease-fire took effect on the afternoon of 21 February. According to AFP, 17 people were killed and about 60 were wounded in fighting that involved Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) and local armed groups. Voice of Lebanon radio said the violence started on 19 February when the popular resistance, the 24th October group and some Palestinian groups clashed with the ADF and their supporters.

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Christian militia in the southern border enclave shelled the Al-Hasbani River Valley on 20 February. Meanwhile, Voice of Hope radio noted that after leaving a hospital in Haifa, Maj Sa'd Haddad said that if the IDF and his militia forces attacked, they would fight not the Lebanese but only the Palestinians.

PLO

'Arafat, Hawatimah Speeches -- The Voice of Palestine carried a speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a Beirut rally on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). 'Arafat declared in connection with the 29-30 January "battle" near Tayasir that he can never cease fire so long

as there is occupied Palestinian territory. He added that no Palestinian leadership can cease fire in such circumstances, saying that the PLO agreed to a cease-fire only across the Lebanese border.

In an address to the same rally reported by the radio, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah called for a new Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit to ensure the implementation of an economic and political boycott, including an oil boycott, against the United States. Hawatimah stressed the need for Palestinian solidarity with the Lebanese National Movement and with Syria, and referred to the recent disturbances in Hamah as part of the imperialist attack against Syria.

Israel

West Bank Unrest -- Jerusalem radio reported that security forces used tear gas to disperse a demonstration in Ramallah protesting the closure of Bi'r Zayt University. According to a later report by the radio, the initiators of the demonstration complained that the security forces used violence in dispersing it, but the security sources defended the use of tear gas because high school students who joined the demonstrators threw stones at the soldiers.

Rafah Border -- DAVAR reported on 19 February that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon ordered Hayim Erez, the commander of the Southern Command, who was scheduled to move the border fence in the Rafah area on 22 February, not to demolish any buildings in Rafah for the purpose of amending the border. According to the paper, Egypt has rejected eight Israeli proposals designed to demarcate the border so as to avoid suffering for the inhabitants. Jerusalem radio reported that at a Rafah meeting between Erez and other Israeli officials it was agreed that Israel will do all it can not to demolish houses in Rafah and not to evict inhabitants from their land because of the international border demarcation. According to the radio, the Israeli officials met with Rafah notables and asked them to cooperate with the border demarcators. They also promosed full compensation, in accordance with the law, to every resident whose property is damaged or taken away, the radio reported.

Egypt

Government Policy -- Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din outlined government policy in a 20 February statement to the People's Assembly broadcast live by Cairo radio. On foreign policy, he said Egypt considers it imperative that the Palestinian issue should take priority in the quest for a comprehensive peace. Amid a detailed exposition of government economic policies, Muhyi ad-Din announced that to stabilize Egypt's currency, imports will be financed through the banks without transferring currency.

Relations With Chad -- MENA reported that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali had revealed an Egyptian decision to resume full diplomatic relations with Chad.

Saudi Arabia

Security Cooperation -- Riyadh television reported that Saudi Arabia signed a security cooperation agreement with the UAE on 21 February. According to WAKH, the agreement provides for the exchange of equipment, expertise and training, for the extradition of criminals and for border cooperation. SPA noted that the kingdom signed a similar agreement with Qatar later the same day. WAKH said the Saudis also expect to sign security agreements with Oman and Kuwait.

Oil Cutback Denial -- SPA reported on 21 February that the under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources denied that the kingdom had decided to reduce oil production to 7-7.5 million barrels per day and affirmed that Saudi production is continuing at the maximum level envisaged of 8.5 million barrels per day.

Cheysson Trip

French and Gulf media reported on French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's 2-day visit to the UAE on 19-20 February. Paris radio noted that the atmosphere of Cheysson's talks became more relaxed after his statement that a future Palestinian state should be located in the territories occupied by Israel. Citing UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, WAKH reported that Cheysson expressed France's readiness to supply the UAE with a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. After arrival in Iraq on 21 February, Cheysson said in a statement reported by INA that France desires to bolster relations with Iraq in all fields, particularly the nuclear field.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio said that Iranian forces launched an attack on 20 February against the heart of the enemy forces in the Chazzabeh gorge and captured a strategic point. Tehran radio also claimed that 500 Iraqi soldiers were killed in this operation. According to a later Iranian communique broadcast by the radio, the Iraqis tried to launch a counteroffensive but were forced to return to their former positions after a fierce battle.

An Iraqi communique carried by INA reported organized and wide-scale Iranian attacks in the Bostan area 18-20 February but claimed that all enemy attempts were crushed. According to an Iraqi commander, cited by INA, the attacking Iranian forces amounted to over one division and several infantry battalions. A later communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that 3,387 Iranians were killed and a large number wounded in the Bostan battles, while admitting the death of 200 Iraqis. The communique added that Iraqi planes made 22 sorties and Iraqi helicopters 18 sorties before returning safely to base. According to INA, Iraq expressed to the International Red Cross its readiness to accept a brief cease-fire to enable the Iranians to evacuate their dead from a no-man's land in the Bostan sector.

Prisoner Visits, Mediation -- KUNA reported that at the request of Iran and Iraq Kuwait has officially announced its agreement to act as a staging station for the exchange of families of prisoners taken in the war.

According to AFP, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that Iran will receive former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who is attempting to mediate. However, the spokesman added that Iran will not negotiate as long as Iraqi troops remain on its territory and as long as Iraq has not paid Iran war indemnities, AFP reported.

Iran

Security Situation -- Tehran radio reported that 11 people were killed and 61 injured when a powerful bomb exploded inside a garbage can in a Tehran square early on 22 February. According to the radio, street sweepers, schoolchildren and other passers-by comprised most of the casualties.

Khomeyni Health -- IRNA reported that Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani told a 21 February press conference in New Delhi that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni "is in fine shape."

Afghanistan

AFP reported that Muslim rebels captured a message from the Qandahar Province Sarandoy commander to the interior minister in which the former said his force lost three quarters of its men over the last 6 months. The commander said that out of 2,692 men in the ranks only 617 are left, of whom only half are fit for action.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REBELS INTERCEPT OFFICER'S MESSAGE ON QANDAHAR

OW191648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 19 Feb 82

[By Alain Faudeux]

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, 19 Feb (AFP) -- The paramilitary police force of Qandahar Province lost three quarters of its men over the past six months, according to a report to the Afghan Interior Ministry intercepted by Moslem insurgents.

The document, smuggled to this town just across the border from the troubled province by members of Sayyed Gailani's National Islamic Front, confirmed the gravity of the situation in Qandahar itself, the second largest Afghan town. Reports have charged hundreds of civilians died in Soviet-Afghan Government shelling in January.

Recently arrived insurgents said that the town was now calm, but that the province remained the scene of the bitterest clashes in the country.

The intercepted message, from the commander of the Qandahar "saranoay" to Interior Minister Maj Seyyed Mohammad Golabzoy, reported that the force was decimated and was receiving no logistical support.

The commander complained of a lack of coordination and suggested various measures to "control" Qandahar and stop an exodus of progovernment inhabitants to the capital.

Written in the local Persian dialect, the report made no mention of Soviet forces.

The commander reported that in 3,716 operations, the force had killed 109 "bandits" and captured 105. But he reported that out of 319 officers, he had only 82, with all others killed or transferred without being replaced, while 338 noncommissioned officers have been killed out of 434.

Out of 2,692 men in the ranks, the commander was left with 617, but reported that only 312 of these could be considered "fit for action".

The report said that 80 recruits had been signed on and 100 noncommissioned officers were in training.

It added that 76 were members of the communist party and were having some success with four sections they had set up to recruit young people. However the local party had only eight cadres to run 21 adult education classes, while it needed 32.

The commander said that his headquarters were transferred to an old hospital, but did not say why the original barracks were abandoned.

He complained that he had received no arms, ammunition or other material for two months. "All vehicles were destroyed in the fighting and the force has neither mines nor walkie-talkie radios", the commander told the minister.

He added that officers were transferred to Kabul "without my agreement", and that they were paid without any check being made on whether they were still in action.

He went on to warn that the "dirty rebels" were concentrating their attacks on Qandahar, attacking the town and disrupting communications.

The commander told his superior that "if" Qandahar were under control, it would be possible to keep 25,000 children at school and recruit as many workers, but he complained that to do this, more "progressives" must remain in the province, instead of leaving for Kabul.

He concluded that coordination was almost zero between the various government forces. To back this up he reported that the paramilitary police had sent a group of veterans to negotiate with the rebels, but the army fired on the insurgents before the talks even opened.

KARMAL ADDRESSES KABUL PARTY CONFERENCE

LD200010 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, took part today in the work of the first party organization conference of Kabul city and was unanimously elected, with revolutionary enthusiasm by the delegates, representatative of the Kabul city party organization to the PDPA national conference.

This conference, which was held in the Salam Khanah hall, the Revolutionary Council headquarters, in accordance with the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Seventh Plenum determining the duties of the Kabul city party organization to implement the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee [words indistinct] and elections of delegates to take part in the PDPA national conference, was attended by the members of the PDPA Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee and representatives of Kabul city party organizations.

After the nomination and election of the conference Presidium, the commissions for the credentials, secretariat and editorial boards were nominated and unanimously approved by the delegates.

The agenda and procedure of the conference about the duties of Kabul city party organizations regarding the implementation of the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Seventh Plenum and election of delegates to take part in the PDPA national conference were then introduced and the work of the conference began.

'Abdozzohur Razmjoy, secretary of the Kabul city party committee, first read a report about the activities of the Kabul city party committee and, on behalf of the committee, all party and social organizations and government organs of Kabul city, expressed decisive support for the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Seventh Plenum.

The report comprehensively illuminated the activities of the Kabul city party committee in organizational work, enhancing the level of ideological knowledge of party members, explaining the party objectives among the people, securing, increasing and strengthening party ranks, strengthening national unity in respective [word indistinct] providing suitable guidance for Kabul city social organizations, etc. The social activities of the Kabul city party organization have been described in the following manner:

In order to give a fitting welcome to the PDPA national conference, the Kabul city party committee has taken such measures as commencing work competitions, obtaining pledges for raising output to exceed the plan by the pioneer enterprises and publicizing their experiences to other enterprises and creating new revolution defense groups, revolutionary guards, residential committees, and Afghan-USSR friendship rooms, which play an important role in strengthening the friendship between the people of Afghanistan and the USSR.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a number of delegates from Kabul party and social organizations spoke in formation of and support for the basic report. In the course of explaining at length the activities of their respective organizations, they reaffirmed their pledge not to spare any self-sacrifice and devotion to implementing the humane objectives of the party and the revolutionary government.

The report of the credentials commissions was then presented and unanimously approved. A group of pioneers entered the hall and, by singing the song of pioneers and presenting flowers to the conference Presidium, conveyed the respect and greetings of the pioneers to the delegates who took part in the conference.

The message and report of the revolutionary guards and party organizations of Kabul city who, on the instructions of the Kabul city party committee, have been sent to Qandahar Province to accomplish revolutionary tasks, were read by an official of the defense and justice department of the Kabul city party committee.

At the end of the first part of the conference, Babrak Karmal delivered a passionate revolutionary speech which was received with enthusiasm and continuous applause by the delegates. He said:

Esteemed delegates of the first party organization conference of Kabul city: On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, Politburo and myself I present high praise and best wishes to you, the most praiseworthy elected comrades taking part in Kabul's first party conference, and I express my hearty and sincere thanks for inviting me to take part in the conference work.

Babrak Karmal added: Approximately 4 years have lapsed since that historic day when the victorious April Revolution succeeded under the determination of the people under the leadership of the PDPA, ending [words indistinct] the shameful regime of the exploiters. During this period our party and the DRA Government have taken effective steps for fundamental socioeconomic transformations in the interest of the country's toilers. This period has shown that despite difficulties and problems, despite the lunatic resistance and continuous sabotage of domestic and foreign counterrevolution and despite the undeclared war of reaction, imperialism and hegemonism against Afghanistan, our revolution is continuing its victorious evolution, crushing the trenches and positions of [word indistinct]. This is the main political assessment of the last 4 years since the victory of the revolution.

It must be pointed out that the PDPA is continuing to evolve. (?The ranks of the party have been extended) and the unity of the toilers in (?the party) has been strengthened.

Babrak Karmal added: We must mention to the comrade delegates of the conference that this year noticeable achievements have been obtained in the fields of struggle against the counterrevolutionaries, enhancing the national economy and implementing social transformations. The heroic Armed Forces of the DRA, with the assistance and support of the citizens, have imposed heavy and mortal losses on the exported counterrevolutionary bands. This is being received with warm welcome by the people of Afghanistan and by our friends and is causing panic and anger among reactionary and imperialist circles.

Babrak Karmal added: Dear comrades, the party organization of the beautiful capital of our country -- the historic city of Kabul, which has in its ranks several thousand permanent and probationary members -- forms the biggest section of the PDPA.

The history of the Kabul party organization is full of tradition and proud revolutionary customs. Our party was formed in Kabul and its first congress was convened here. Briefly, we can say that all incidents and important events in the life of the party are mainly attached to Kabul. Kabul is and will be the center of the country's revolutionary events. The April Revolution and its new development stage began from Kabul. All this puts (?great) responsibilities on the shoulders of the city party committee, military committees, primary party organizations and permanent and probationary members of the party in Kabul. Fortunately, the party organization of Kabul city in its leading role [words indistinct].

Babrak Karmal went on to say: A while ago we were witness to an important and outstanding event. On the initiative of the Kabul city party committee, the day of friendship and cooperation was marked. On 12 January, the powerful and valuable tradition of our people achieved another revolutionary [word indistinct].

Thousands of Kabul citizens who received financial and medical assistance and those who took part in graveling, leveling and repairing tens of kilometers of roads, in cleaning and restoring mosques, and so forth, felt the real care and attention of the party and government. This patriotic pride must be popularized nationwide and must be supported by all permanent and probationary members of the party committees and party organizations.

At the end of his speech Babrak Karmal added: Militant comrades and dear militant and Islamic cofighters, the national PDPA conference will be convened in the near future. The most important issues of our party's growth will be considered in this conference and a document of immense value, the work charter, will be approved and will determine (?the direction) of the party for the years to come. Each one of us will face immense, complicated and important duties, from each of us formidable energy and immense power is expected so that the party can accomplish successfully the duties allotted. But we know that there are no insurmountable difficulties and problems and genuine revolutionaries can accomplish whatever they plan to do and nothing can stop them.

I have a firm belief that our party and our people, despite the last-ditch efforts of the enemies, will create a new and tranquil life in the country. I am confident that the party organization of Kabul city will accomplish its historic role in this immense and historic task.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the head of the editors commission then presented to the conference the draft of the resolution regarding the first part of the conference, which was unanimously approved by the delegates.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that in the second part of the conference election of the delegates took place in a free and democratic atmosphere and, from among 632 delegates of the Kabul city party organizations, 178 delegates were elected to take part in the national PDPA conference.

Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan; Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, were elected unanimously, with the ardent and comradely (?congratulations) of the participants, as delegates of the Kabul city party organization to take part in the PDPA national conference.

The work of the Kabul city party organization ended in an enthusiastic atmosphere full of revolutionary feelings.

BARIALAY-LED DELEGATION RETURNS FROM FRANCE

LD170738 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Kabul, 16 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, returned home from France.

An Afghan party delegation headed by Mahmud Barialay had gone to France at the invitation of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party [PCF], and participated in the 24th Congress of the PCF.

MUSAVI ADDRESSES NATION ON WAR, ECONOMY

LD191120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Message from Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi addressed to the nation on 18 February -- recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A salute and greetings to the great leader of our Islamic revolution; a salute and greetings to the combatants who, with their innocent blood, defended the great Islamic values and the aspirations of the Islamic revolution and the toils of the nation; and a salute and greetings to you, great nation, to our sisters and brothers who, with their permanent presence on the scene, have dealt telling blows to the forces of arrogance, to you people who, as martyrs of oppression, have always (?fought against oppression):

My first direct talk as a humble servant of Islam and as a servant of the oppressed worshipers of God is addressed to our brothers and sisters, whereas in previous such talks reference was indirectly made that the government is not divorced from the nation but is rather a small part of this great ocean. If the government was separate from the nation, then indubitably it could not stand up to these immense plots and great problems, nor achieve anything at all.

I shall speak about several fundamental issues upon which I have already expounded in the Majlis -- issues to which the government gives priority and the most important problems for which the Cabinet attempts to find solutions. This does not mean that there are no other problems in the country. No!

The war is the government's first priority. The government, as part of the nation, is determined to end this war with victory. The government's overall policies in all fields, whether economic, cultural, or propaganda, are all directed toward the fact that we should triumph in this war, which is in reality a war between the Islamic revolution and world arrogance. We have not gone beyond the conditions proclaimed right at the outset of the war by our nation, our leaders, our officials. We have attempted to constantly announce these conditions to the world. In order to end the war -- and this has often been declared -- we announced that the aggressor should withdraw from our country's borders, from our soil, that the aggressor should be identified and be officially declared for what he is, and that the aggressor should pay reparations and be punished. This is something which the government has always pursued and it has not deviated an inch from this policy.

At the outset of the war the chanting of these slogans and the proclamation of this policy did not receive a good reception in the world. The world, in pursuance of the extensive propaganda disseminated by the arrogant powers, headed by the United States, considered our policy to be empty slogans. It thought that these were merely slogans without content, that we were not insistent. It thought that these people would in a short space of time destroy the system of the Islamic Republic. But the realities have demonstrated that we defend these slogans with might and main, that these slogans are not empty, and that at present our position in the world is such that gradually various countries, various governments, despite their intrinsic desire, feel that our nation's demand is a serious one, and that our nation, our combatants and the government that is serving you are by no means prepared to retreat in the least from these demands.

It is natural for the United States and all its acolytes to be frightened and terrified by this issue, to panic and to devote all their efforts to maintaining Saddam's shaky regime and for all U.S. accomplices in the region to be mobilized in order to keep him there. The state of Iraq, or rather the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, used to issue slogans against the United States, against reaction in the region, but inwardly it was more reactionary and collusive than all the regimes.

This war, which is a war of unmasking, has completely laid bare the nature of Iraq's injustice toward the world, the meek in the region and world Muslims.

It would be desirable for you to note the support rendered by the Jordanian Husayn, the sultan of Morocco, and their ilk to that regime. This is because all the powers subservient to the United States have now risen in support of that regime and the regime's pro-U.S. nature has been laid bare to all. Naturally, the crumbling of that regime would be tantamount to a transformation of the face of the region -- a transformation which began with our Islamic revolution.

We are not surprised to see such a filthy personage as Weinberger appearing in the Middle East and in the region, traveling to Jordan, to Oman, and to the other [word indistinct] countries, because they feel in their bones that should (?this course of events continue unchecked), blows would be dealt to Western interests, including those of the United States, in the region.

Now we also have another explanation for the suspicious comings and goings. Just as the right honorable Majlis speaker pointed out during Friday prayers, the fact is that the United States senses that that regime is on its way out; it senses that Saddam will go. So it is quite natural for it to think of finding a successor to that regime and, to quote the Europeans, to find a suitable [word indistinct] to that regime. The coming of the Jordanian forces, which are volunteers, to our homeland -- and we know what sort of volunteers these are -- is aimed solely at this: That at the moment of the fall of the Saddam regime they might be able to thwart the manifestation of the will of the Iraqi Muslim nation and replace the regime with another which would collude and safeguard U.S. interests in the region.

The second issue which I would like to discuss with our brothers and sisters is that of security. Well, our whole nation has seen the extent to which -- with the succor of God and with our (?committed) people's presence on the scene -- the plots have subsided, and the degree of power we have obtained in order to be able to crush all these immense conspiracies. Perhaps in the whole of history and the world it is unprecedented for a nascent system, and not even a nascent but a stable system, in a short space of time to have sacrificed so many of its officials and (?pursued its aspirations) while a wave of terrorism so savagely wiped out hundreds of people, and yet remained in power.

This very issue is a very bright indication of the genuine nature of your revolution. This is because it is leaning on God, on divine values. Because our aware and heroic people are on the scene it does not mean that when our responsible officials are martyred the system will collapse. On the contrary, we saw that when the martyr Beheshti and 72 of his companions were martyred, when the Raja'is, Bahonars, Dastgheybs and Madanis were martyred how much more our people were united and determined to confront and detect these plots.

What I would like to point out, and this is of great importance, is the fact that the system of the Islamic Republic in all its dimensions is much stronger and more stable than at the time when the wave of terrorism was unleashed. At that time the hypocrites and all the dupes of the United States imagined that such a system was not in power, that there was sedition and perturbation afoot and that the system of the Islamic Republic was leaning on individuals and, therefore, that if these people were assassinated, the system would collapse. But I would like to say that this assessment was incorrect.

The other issue which I would like to refer to and, should God grant us success, I might possibly refer to even more in future talks, is the country's economic problems, which possibly constitute the most major issue with which the government is strongly grappling and to which it is devoting its greatest efforts.

Quite naturally we should see our economic situation as another aspect of our war against the world's arrogant powers, headed by the United States. It is quite clear that the issue of the war and the issue of the economy, the issue of confrontation with the United States and the multifarious dimensions of the revolution, are intertwined. They are not separate.

When a nation breaks the back of fear, which comes from within its ranks, of the superpowers, rises and administers a slap to the face of the United States, attacks and acquires an offensive spirit, speaks of values which are contrary to the values which the United States wishes to impose on the meek countries of the world, it is natural for all forces to rise up against this nation and all the arrogant powers to rise against this great force.

However, one of the fundamental dimensions of the U.S. struggle against our country right from the very first days was the economic dimension. The United States is extremely skillful in this field and in the war, just as it is skillful in killing people and just as it is skillful in bringing pressure to bear on all the meek nations of the world. A country which continues its life with the money and riches which it plunders from the meek countries of the world is naturally extremely efficient and active in waging this war.

What happened was that after a period of time following the victory of the revolution the United States still entertained certain hopes; it did not maximize this pressure but kept up its compromises as it could see that it had on its side the middle-of-the-road and nationalist wings, the Bani-Sadrs, and thought that through political means it could bring its pawns to power. But when all these hopes were dashed, when the den of espionage was occupied, when it saw that the will of our nation would under no circumstances accept a compromise with the United States, when it saw that the will of our nation was deeply advancing the political revolution within itself and turning this into a cultural revolution, transforming its (?currency) system, its ethics and its consumption -- when the United States saw that our nation was under no circumstances prepared to give up the principles which it had wrested at the cost of a great deal of blood, from that time onward it concentrated its efforts on imposing the maximum economic pressure on our country.

In this way the economic blockade began, and so did the freezing of our assets in various banks in the United States and the complex U.S. conspiracies on the international markets so that the thing on which our economic life depends [words indistinct]. In this way the U.S. plot was started, and the hands of U.S. accomplices in the region saturated the oil markets in order to prevent us from obtaining our (?small) share of the oil markets and to place us under U.S. economic pressure and bring us to our knees.

This war is just as ruthless as the one on the Bostan fronts, on the fronts north of Abadan. But this war was dynamic for us. During this war, despite all the weaknesses with which we were beset in the beginning, we are able to organize ourselves rapidly, to move forward and to triumph over all the difficulties and problems which confront us.

Undoubtedly, our economic aims have been transformed along the lines of our political aims and aspirations. Indubitably, the economic policy which is holding sway in the Islamic Republic is that of protecting the meek in society. Unquestionably, this policy will lead toward burying all ties of subservience to the arrogant powers of the world. Well, when we have such a policy, when we pursue such a policy, we will naturally be beset by the greatest onslaughts and plots.

As I have pointed out, if we were to summarize and classify these plots [words indistinct], we would see this struggle within two frameworks: in that of an economic blockade, and through limiting our currency resources through bringing pressure to bear on the oil markets, which is primarily being carried out in the region by Saudi Arabia.

The pressure being brought to bear by Saudi Arabia on the international markets at U.S. instigation is aimed precisely at our Islamic revolution. What is the meaning of this pressure?

It means preventing us from selling our oil, so that we will sell less and obtain less currency and so that in the final analysis we will not have sufficient funds for our development plans, for our current expenditure, so that we will not be able to import spare parts from abroad to meet the elementary needs of the country.

What is important -- and what we and our nation have discovered throughout the revolution -- is that, first, the will of a nation is stronger than all the satanical and arrogant forces.

The second thing is that the government has always noticed that U.S. hegemony on world markets and on the world economic situation is not absolute, even inside its own country. In order to safeguard its interests the United States has to observe to a certain extent the laws reigning supreme on the market and on the international economy and has to make use of certain mechanisms.

The government which is serving the nation is utilizing precisely this state of affairs, endeavoring by expanding its relations and by understanding the laws reigning on the markets, to make maximum use of these in order to foil U.S. plans.

Here I would like to proclaim that if OPEC were to make a decision concerning oil, that decision should in the first place be aimed at limiting the export of the oil which Saudi Arabia and its ilk have started moving toward the West, for we will under no circumstances accept subservience to laws and agreements which would undoubtedly culminate in harming our Islamic revolution.

Finally, I would like to say to my sisters and brothers that the conspiracies do not consist of only a single dimension, as I have pointed out, and no doubt you yourselves are aware of this situation. These plots are manifold: military plots, domestic plots through these minigroups; there is also the economic dimension. So if we and our nation want to triumph in all arenas, we should pay the greatest heed to all these dimensions and devote maximum efforts to all these dimensions. God willing, we will do so!

MAHDAVI-KANI: KHOMEYNI 'IN FINE SHAPE'

LD212046 Tehran IRNA in English 2011 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 21 Feb (IRNA) -- Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani denied in New Delhi on Saturday the imperialist-inspired rumours about Imam Khomeyni's allegedly deteriorating health.

Speaking in a press conference in the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ayatollah was quoted by the New Delhi correspondent of KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL, as having said: "Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, is in fine shape."

Ayatollah Kani, the secretary general of the Tehran combatant ulema society, recently headed a 3-man delegation to India, in an attempt to convey the message of the Iranian revolution to the Indian people. He returned to Tehran today.

RAFSANJANI SPEAKS ON WAR, MORALE IN SERMON

LD191438 Tehran Domestic Service in Perisan 1030 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Friday prayers were held today throughout the country and millions of our militant and Muslim compatriots took part. Also today, masses of Tehran's revolutionary and committed people took part in Friday prayer religiopolitical ceremonies under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University.

The ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran, in his first sermon, made remarks on work and higher production as emphasized in Islam to create a desirable living for the Islamic society.

He said: [read by announcer] Islam does not approve of poverty and great wealth. In Islam both mortification and extravagance are rejected. Islam condemns mortification, which is undertaken without a sound reason and believes it is dangerous. Islam also believes that it is below human dignity to pursue mundane goods and to live lavishly.

Continuing his first sermon, the ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran added: Islam condemns lavish living and has said that prodigal people are brothers of Satan. The nature of capitalists and rich people is related to America. [sentence as heard]

The ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran continued this discussion by saying: In a society where two poles are created and one group is deprived while another group lives in a lavish and aristocratic style, brotherhood and unity will not survive; hatred and hostility, as exists between wolf and the sheep, will replace them.

While expressing regret that our country continues in this way, despite a slight improvement, he compared living standards and the consumption of food, energy and fuel in Western countries with those in Africa and other deprived states of the world. He said: The average life expectancy in the United States is 65 years and in Bangladesh, 25 years. The Islamic Republic, therefore, is dutybound to expose the consumer world.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, continuing his first sermon, added: The present situation, in which there are people living in confort in northern cities, while others in southern cities are deprived, is not acceptable from Islam's point of view. This problem should be solved by Islamic methods.

The ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran, in his second sermon, made some remarks in connection with the war, and said: We naturally hate war; we do not want this war. We did not want it to last long or to inflict so many losses on both sides; but it has happened. We, at this sensitive stage of the war, are affected by the damage caused by the war. It requires deep thinking to see any benefit from the war: Society became self-sacrificing, cohesive, sincere and constructive. Devotion has left its effect on society and self-sacrifices by the combatants have softened the hearts of the people. There have been other benefits from the war which will effect our liberation and independence.

The ad-interim Friday imam of Tehran, continuing his remarks said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] During my recent trip to the south and my inspection of sensitive battlefronts such as Abadan and Bostan, I witnessed the superiority of the forces of Islam and the disintegration of the Saddamist infidel forces. Today we can say that the Saddamists have run out of breath and can no longer continue the war unless something dramatic happens.

During the past few days, Iraqi Ba'thists have committed two or three unpleasant and mad acts which are worthy of note: Their offensives in the Chazzabeh gorge cannot be called anything else but suicide -- Saddam-style or suicide 'Aflaqist-Ba'th Party-style. According to what Iraqi prisoners have said, according to our own information, and as they themselves announced, Saddam came to the region and stayed for some time. Maybe he did not trust his commanders, or maybe he wanted to assess the possibility of a successful attack by the Arabs. He had gathered a large force in a place which is not suitable for maneuvering. Then he launched a centralized attack. They fired shells and bullets during the past 7 or 8 days, unprecedented in our 1-and-1/2-year-old war. According to quotations from their POWs, they lost 2,000 personnel, which is [word indistinct]. It happened because our positions in the gorge were consolidated while theirs were vulnerable; therefore, they were repulsed. Saddam was behind the whole operation. It is said that 100 of their troops were shot in the back because they were disobedient and did not want to fight. They did not want to advance because it was suicide. They gained nothing. We had a relatively small force, because (?defending a gorge) does not require a great force. Our soldiers resisted and foiled the enemy offensives.

Our soldiers, our corps, our army believe that if Saddam had entered Bostan, he could not have kept it with these forces. But their target could not be limited to the recapture of Bostan alone. Their attempt at recapturing Bostan was only a very unskillful, hasty and uncalculated move to test their forces.

Then Saddam returned to Baghdad. They waged a vast propaganda campaign claiming that 7,000 Iranians were killed, this happened, that happened, and Bostan was recaptured. Later they said: We are behind Bostan's gates and can enter when we want, and other such (?nonsense). It was all lies. Of course, we had several martyrs and wounded. We had several hundred wounded, but Saddam suffered heavily in this attack.

In Khorramshahr, we watched a film showing that the Iraqis were busy demolishing some of the houses. They were blowing up houses. It appears they were constructing soil barriers or a field for maneuvers. This is another stupid act. If Saddam believes that Khorramshahr belongs to him, then why is he demolishing it? If he does not believe so, then he wants to go leaving behind a ruin for us. Israelis did the same thing in the [name indistinct] of Syria. I visited that city in 1973. They had completely flattened the city and handed it over to Syria.

Saddam committed another ugly crime in Eslamabad-e Gharb. But the world media are not prepared to tell the world about these crimes. Militarymen know that is is very easy to indiscriminately bomb civilian areas. An aircraft flying at 30,000 ft can drop its bombs in an area of 30 square km. The bombs will always hit something when dropped over a city; they will drop in a street, on a bazaar, a school, and kill a group of people. This is not war. This is a way of ridding one of one's complexes. For a person who has many complexes there is no other way open. We do not commit such crimes even on Iraqi battlefronts, never mind Iraqi cities. They flew high and dropped their bombs and massacred civilian people. We have had 60 casualties so far -- 20 martyrs and the rest wounded. Mr Saddam's operations are like this. In his political and international propaganda, his collaborators -- the kings of Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and other individuals like the leaders of Yemen, Oman and their ilk -- have spread the rumor that Iran is a warmonger while they are peace lovers. They have also raised cries of seeking peace. Saddam visited Imam Hoseyn's shrine in Karbala', and cried, and the scene was shown on Baghdad television. He has pretended to be a Muslim. This is the sum total of the personality of Saddam.

On the other hand, our forces are superior; their morale is high and they are so ready for war that it gives us joy. In Abadan, I saw the Khorramshahr corps. I saw that they were yearning for an opportunity to recapture Khorsamshahr. In Bostan, with all that pressure, our forces were acting as if they have never heard the roar of gunfire. They were so brave and had such high morale. They were all awaiting orders to move. All our forces (?try to kill) time -- our soldiers, corps and Mobilization forces.

The morale of the people was also very high. In some parts of Khuzestan, for example, in Haft Tappeh, there are war refugees. Upon meeting me, the war refugees would chant the slogan "War, war till victory." If this is the morale of a war refugee, who has suffered so much, you can imagine how others think. In Khuzestan, a person feels that there has never been a war, even in those parts which were once occupied. There is so much activity. Ahvaz looked like Tehran. People were going to work normally. They were busy working in villages and factories and all are trying to consolidate behind the battlelines.

I saw cohesiveness between the Guards Corps and the armed forces. Do you remember how the moderates tried so hard by propaganda to separate these forces?

They should say: The Guards Corps has come to destroy and replace the armed forces; the armed forces personnel do not like members of the Guards Corps. But I witnessed that on those fronts the Guards Corps and the armed forces have become as close as twin brothers. When they want to fight on a front, they both demand they go together. The army wants to be with the corps and vice versa. They fight and rest together. They are all friends, the Mobilization forces and the others, too. We can see monolithic unity and familiarity. Militarymen are made so well. [end recording]

CSSR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER IN TEHRAN FOR TALKS

Report on Arrival

LD191836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the foreign trade minister of Czechoslovakia arrived in Tehran this morning at the invitation of Mr Mohammad Taqi Banki, minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization of our country. Mr Banki welcomed his guest at the airport. The foreign trade minister of Czechoslovakia has come to Iran following the previous trip by a high-ranking economic delegation from his country. During the visit of the Czech delegation to Iran, an economic protocol was signed between Iran and Czechoslovakia.

Meeting With Musavi

LD201948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the CSSR foreign trade minister this afternoon met and conferred with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

At this meeting, which was also attended by Mr Banki, minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization, the CSSR foreign trade minister handed over the CSSR premier's message of congratulations on the third anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution to Prime Minister Musavi.

Then the prime minister, referring to the foreign policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that our foreign policy is inspired by the Islamic revolution, which is based on our nation's traditions. Those countries which respect our nation's interests can have relations with us based on mutual interest.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Musavi acknowledged the invitation extended by the CSSR foreign trade minister regarding the dispatch of an economic and trade delegation to that country to continue the talks, and he wished success to the nation of Czechoslovakia.

Meeting With Banki

LD201254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the foreign trade minister of Czechoslovakia met with Mr Banki, the minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization, this morning. During this meeting, they conferred and exchanged views on cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Meeting With Khamene'i

LD211312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Czechoslovakia's foreign trade minister, who has traveled to our country at the invitation of the minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization, at noon today met and conferred with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president.

At this meeting the expansion of economic relations between the two countries and trade exchanges were discussed.

Cooperation Discussed

LD211332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Minister, Bohumil Urban, who arrived in Tehran on Friday to take part in economic and trade talks between Iran and Czechoslovakia, today met and conferred with Petroleum Minister Gharazi at the latter's office following his earlier talks with our country's senior political and economic officials. Based on his talks with our country's senior officials, a memorandum of understanding is to be signed between the two countries tomorrow.

After his talks with the Iranian petroleum minister, the Czechoslovak foreign trade minister gave an exclusive interview to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on his talks with the oil minister and other Oil Ministry officials.

He said: The general theme of our talks was the oil, gas and petrochemical industry. Useful talks were held on these issues between the two countries. He added: Czechoslovakia is prepared to concentrate its work on the petrochemical and refinery industry in order to cooperate with Iran. He reminded us that his country is a major manufacturer of industrial equipment, particularly equipment connected with the chemical industry. He added that in the course of his talks with Iranian officials the possibility of cooperation in this field and other required fields was discussed. The Czechoslovak minister said that he was hoping that the talks would be successful. He added that Czechoslovakia has realized that it could be a major purchaser of Iranian crude oil and, similarly, Iran could become a good market for Czechoslovak industrial equipment and parts and petrochemical and chemical products. [end recording]

Following his talks with the Czechoslovak foreign trade minister, Petroleum Minister Gharazi said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage indistinct] It appears that Czechoslovakia is very advanced. They are very sensitive about the purchase of Iranian gas. Obviously, we could not reach specific agreements in one single meeting.

We have at any rate made arrangements for extensive cooperation. It was agreed that the two countries experts would take a more active approach to the oil issue, oil technology, [word indistinct] and exchanges on petrochemicals. I believe that, considering Czechoslovakia's experience in Iran, it is very interested in cooperating with us. [end recording]

DEFENSE COUNCIL DISCUSSES PALME MEDIATION VISIT

LD202300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The Supreme Defense Council met tonight under the chairmanship of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. The meeting, attended by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the council; Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi; chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gen Zahirnezhad; Defense Minister, Colonel Salimi; acting Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps brother Sham'kani and [IRNA Director General] Kamal Gharazi discussed the situation at the war fronts and future war strategies. The meeting adopted some decisions.

At the conclusion of the council's meeting tonight, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke to our correspondent on topics discussed by the council. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [question indistinct]

[Answer] I have already discussed the topic in my Friday prayers sermon. There are other topics which I will speak of in the future. Of course, we made some decisions for the future concerning which it was necessary to inform the imam because, as the leader and the commander in chief, he must be informed of important decisions. Today I went for an audience with the imam and told him of what I had seen at the fronts. This made him very happy and he prayed for our combatants and issued some guidance, guidelines which I will communicate to the armed forces.

What I saw at the fronts was interesting. [Words indistinct] there is the feeling at the fronts that the clergy and the Majlis deputies should visit the fronts more often, and I have already asked the Qom seminary students to visit the fronts more often. This is quite a natural request. They said that the sight of a clergyman at the front is worth more than 100 tanks coming to the front. Their presence would boost the combatants' morale.

[Question] Mr Rafsanjani, can you elaborate on other topics discussed tonight?

[Answer] The topics discussed tonight included a request by mediators to come to Iran for the fourth time. On behalf of the UN secretary general it has been requested that Mr Palme should visit Iran. We have agreed to this visit. Our policy is generally based on the principle of receiving anyone who wishes to visit Iran in connection with the war and to listen to his words and proposals. Of course, we announce and communicate our views regarding our policy. If, despite our war strategy, they still wish to visit our country they are welcome. There were some other discussions around the topic and the suggestion was made that this might be part of U.S. or U.S. agents' possible deviousness and their intention to create some troubles here and there, on the borders or in some other places, especially in the southern frontiers -- we discussed and reviewed this. It is natural and possible that the U.S. agents (?may be moving in that direction). Nevertheless, we expect as the result of our lesson -- the fate of Iraq must have given them a good lesson -- they must have realized that no one has been more ready than Saddam to implement the U.S. directives. They should look at his fate. Naturally, those who have seen Saddam's fate will take note.

Topics related to the counterrevolutionary moves were also discussed tonight and we adopted some decisions accordingly.

CABINET BRIEFED BY RETURNING DELEGATIONS

LD201138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the Cabinet held a session this morning chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. The session began with a recitation of some verses from the glorious Koran. At the end of today's session, the government spokesman was interviewed by a Central News Unit correspondent on the decisions taken during this session. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Tavakkoli, please tell us what issues were raised during today's Cabinet session and what decisions were taken?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Most of the discussion in today's Cabinet session centered on reports presented by our brothers on their trips to foreign countries on the occasion of the revolution anniversary. [passage indistinct]

Our brother Dr Rafi'i also presented a report pertaining to his trip [words indistinct]. The interior minister also presented Col 'Ali Kuchek-Zadeh as commander of gendarmerie. He started work today.

[Question] Mr Tavakkoli, what agreements were signed between the delegations who went abroad and the countries which they visited?

[Answer] As you yourself mentioned, these trips were taken for publicity purposes. They were not taken for particular economic or political reasons or to sign agreements. At the same time, there have been some economic talks.

For instance, our brother Dr Rafi'i talked with Soviet officials about cooperation between the two countries on some dams. They have signed a protocol, which should follow (?the usual) steps if it is going to become an agreement. [end recording]

NATEQ-NURI APPOINTS NEW GENDARMERIE COMMANDER

LD210300 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 20 Feb (IRNA) -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri (the interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran) appointed Colonel 'Ali Kuchek-Zadeh as the commander of the gendarmerie this morning.

Having praised the gendarmes in establishing domestic security and fighting in the war fronts, he thanked the services of Colonel Manuchehr Najafdari as the acting commander of the gendarmerie.

MILITARY COMMANDER COMMENTS ON IRAQI ATTACKS

LD210036 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 20 Feb (IRNA) -- Recent Iraqi aggressions were mere propaganda maneuvers aimed to attract [words indistinct] army and that of the reactionary regimes in the region in order to survive a little longer, according to Colonel Jamali, commander of military operations in western Iran and deputy commander of the ground forces.

In a press conference, printed in today's morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, Colonel Jamali stressed that Saddam, in order to artifically strengthen the spirit of his forces, would bomb residential areas after every defeat.

In order to deviate world public opinion Saddam resorted to a vicious act on Feb 6th and with a heavily armoured army attacked the Iranian front line from Chazzabeh, western Iran, advancing 100 to 200 meters, the colonel remarked. But, he added, with the rapid counterattack of the forces of Islam, the Iraqi Army was repelled and Saddam was forced to gather his forces to deliver a speech for them.

Later the Iraqi forces seized a hill scarcely manned. After a few hours the hill was taken back, inflicting heavy losses on the Iraqi side and capturing a number of Iraqi forces, Colonel Jamali stated.

He said that Saddam who had failed in these two attacks tried, for the third time, through Neysan but again he was defeated, sustaining a great number of losses and captives, he said.

About Husayn of Jordan's aid to Saddam, Colonel Jamali noted that it was not new and that since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran Husayn and other reactionary regimes of the region had, both militarily and economically, assisted Saddam. But, he stressed, this had been instructed by imperialism and that the Muslim people of Jordan were not interested in fighting with Iran.

Meanwhile, the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces General Zahirnezhad, commenting on the participation of Jordanian forces in Chazzabeh operations, said that there had so far been no trace of Jordanian soldiers, stressing at [as received] no Jordanian Muslim force would fight against Islam.

He added that Husayn of Jordan declared war with the Zionist regime at the time of the late An-Nasir and later went to Cairo and put all the information at the disposal of Moshe Dayan under the pretext of cooperating with Egypt.

General Zahirnezhad stressed that Husayn is a U.S. spy and in the same manner that he paved the ground for the Zionist regime to enter Egypt, he was doing so in the case of Iraq.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 795-797

795: 19 Feb Report

LD191758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Communique 795 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. The dear compatriots are hereby informed of the situation on the warfronts and the outcome of operations and battles carried out by the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Pepublic of Iran:

During the battle and exchanges fo fire yesterday on the western fronts, the ground forces mounted powerful artillery fire from all fronts on the Saddamist positions, giving full support to Islam's combatants on the frontline and inflicting crushing blows on enemy forces. The intensity of fire increased on the Meymak, Konjancham and [name indistinct] fronts. Artillery fire mounted by the ground forces on enemy tank, artillery and infantry positions as well as on its supply routes yesterday resulted in the following damages:

In Salehabad and Meymak, some tank positions, two light machinegun positions, one supply point and one communication center were destroyed.

On the Sumar front, enemy losses included killing a number of Iraqi forces.

On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front, losses included five trenches destroyed and hundreds of enemy forces killed or wounded.

On the Gilan-e Gharb front, three trenches and one mortar were destroyed and a number of enemy forces were killed or injured.

On the Sheykhan, Nowsud, Paveh, Kan-e Sakht and (Ganj Dust) fronts, the valiant gendarmerie answered the enemy fire, silencing it and destroying one enemy ammunition dump and two observation posts in Kan-e Sakht.

On the western fronts, three Iraqi Muslim soldiers surrendered to our forces, and following their request for asylum, joined the Islamic forces.

Sporadic exchanges of fire and battles continued yesterday on the fronts west of Dezful, in Ahvaz, Susangerd, Bostan and Abadan. Our combatants, while defending their positions, prevented the enemy from moving and inflicted losses on the enemy forces by mounting fire on Iraqi positions.

On the Khorramshahr front too, exchanges of fire continued and the valiant navy fired on the aggressors' positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] and the occupied sector of Khorramshahr, killing a number of enemy forces and destroying some Iraqi observation posts.

Yesterday parts of Abadan's civilian sector were under enemy artillery fire, resulting in some casualties.

Also today, enemy aircraft violated the airspace of a number of cities in the warzone but were driven off by our able combatants.

796: 20 Feb Report

LD201758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Communique 796 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Heroic nation of Iran: At 1500 today courageous units of the ground forces and the selfless Islamic Revolution Guards Corps made an attack in the heart of the enemy forces in the Tang-e Chazzabeh region in a coordinated operation codenamed "Master 'Ali, Peace Be Upon His Soul."

With Almighty God's blessing, they inflicted effective blows on the enemy. During the course of today's operations (words indistinct] all the planned targets, one of this region's strategic points was captured completely by our victorious combatants and heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on Saddam's army. Data on these operations will follow in future communiques for the information of the martyr-nurturing people of Iran.

In the region to the west of Dezful, following the artillery fire mounted by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions, 2 tanks, 4 motor vehicles and an ammunition dump belonging to the aggressors were destroyed and 27 enemy forces were killed.

On the Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts, as a result of our combatants' fire, an ammunition dump and 2 enemy observation posts were destroyed and 20 Iraqi forces were killed or injured.

In the Neysan region, our forces destroyed an enemy vehicle with its occupants.

On the Susangerd front the warriors of Islam killed or wounded 10 Iraqi soldiers.

Losses and casualties occurred as a result of enemy mortar fire on Abadan's civilian sector. In the Abadan region our forces opened fire on enemy positions, destroying a number of Iraqi trenches and killing 11 Iraqi personnel.

In the Meymak and Salehabad region, the forces of Islam fired on the enemy's tank and artillery positions, thus silencing the enemy's heavy-weapon fire.

In the Sar-e Pol-e Gharb region, our forces prevented enemy movement and set fire to an enemy tank and a number of trenches and damaged four vehicles.

In the Gilan-e Gharb region, as a result of the precise firing by our artillery, 2 trenches, 1 vehicle and a quantity of enemy ammunition were destroyed on the Chaghalvand axis and 15 Iraqis were killed or injured.

During the operations of 17 and 18 February, the ground forces of the army of Islam provided six martyrs. May their soul, rest in peace.

797: 21 Feb Report

LD211736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Communique 797 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the operations and battles fought yesterday morning by the forces of Islam in Tang-e Chazzabeh, the aggressive Iraqi forces tries to launch a counteroffensive but, after a fierce battle and heavy fighting, the Iraqi forces finally returned to their former positions. Fighting continues on these two fronts with intense exchanges of fire.

On other southern fronts, our combatants, while defending their respective positions and fortifications, returned the enemy fire and silenced the enemy artillery and heavy-weapon fire, destroying some of the enemy positions. They killed or wounded a number of Iraqi forces.

The city of Abadan came under enemy artillery fire and sustained damages to residential and nonresidential buildings. Several people were injured.

Yesterday, fighting and sporadic exchanges of fire continued in Nowsud, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, Salehabad and Meymak and combatants of the ground forces, fighters of the gendarmerie and selfless fighters of the irregular tribal warfare forces opened up artillery and heavy-weapon fire from their positions, silencing enemy fire, damaging the Saddamist forces' supplies and preventing their movements. Due to operations by our forces along the western fronts, the following damages and casualties were inflicted in enemy forces:

1. Destruction of an ammunition depot;
2. Destruction of seven trucks, one antiaircraft gun and several 130-mm guns;
3. Putting five tanks out of action. Forty enemy soldiers were wounded or killed in these operations.

Yesterday, a number of planes belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Air Force tried to violate the airspace of several border towns but were forced to flee as a result of fire from our antiaircraft defence units.

In the battle fought on 19 February, 12 selfless combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. May they rest in peace.

11 DEAD, 61 INJURED IN TEHRAN BOMB BLAST

LD221158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The Central News Unit and IRNA report that at 0715 this morning a powerful bomb, placed inside a garbage can in Eshratabad Square, exploded, causing the deaths of 11 people, including a few street sweepers. The sweepers were collecting the garbage. Two schoolchildren and some pedestrians were also killed. Moreover, some 61 other people were injured, most of whom were treated and later discharged from hospitals. As a result of the explosion, some nearby buildings and automobiles were damaged. Our correspondent adds that most of those killed or wounded were schoolchildren or pedestrians passing by or waiting for the bus.

Speaking to an IRNA correspondent, the Tehran chief of police said two schoolchildren, a boy and a girl, whose lunch bags are still at the scene of the explosion, were among those killed. He added that when the bomb went off, the alert Hezbollahi nation arrived at the scene shouting "God is great."

The people are voicing their revolutionary anger against this blind and antipopular act committed by the counterrevolutionaries, saying it shows their desperation. The people on the scene, whose numbers are constantly increasing, are marching to the office of the medical examiner and shouting "Death to America." A statement has been issued in connection with the explosion by the Martyrs Foundation, condemning these savage acts.

Guards Among Dead

LD221220 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Tehran, 22 Feb (IRNA) -- Up to 15 people, including three Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) [as received], were martyred in a bomb blast in Sepah Square (formerly Eshratabad), eastern Tehran, this morning, the IRGC Public Relations Office said.

Meanwhile, the Army 502 Hospital announced that five victims had been taken there, one of whom had been martyred, three hospitalised and one received outpatient treatment.

CLANDESTINE RADIO REPORTS ON UNREST IN QOM

GF211656 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Qom has reported that the city has been experiencing unrest and increasing tension in recent days. Most of the unrest has occurred at the Fayaziyyeh school and the Qom seminary but has expanded to the mosques and prayer centers. The source of this unrest is the serious disagreement between a number of Qom religious leaders and a number of theology students on the one hand and Khomeyni and his supporters in the city on the other.

The religious leaders believe that Khomeyni has not only destroyed the people's reverence for Islam but that he has also created such an atmosphere in society that the existence of all religious organizations and the security of all theologians has become endangered.

In the face of such complaints, Khomeyni -- in his 11 February message -- strongly attacked deviation and the lack of discipline in theological centers and asked for purges, discipline and an end to deviation in these centers.

Unrest increased in Qom immediately after Khomeyni delivered his message. Groups of pro- and anti-Khomeyni students clashed at the Fayaziyyeh school.

The same report indicates that three members of the Fayaziyyeh school board resigned the following day. This is because guards and Hezbollahi attacked the school while opposition students were attempting to dismiss suporters of Khomeyni and Montazeri.

Following this incident, followers and students of various religious teachers in Qom went to the houses of their leaders to ask for their advice on what to do.

The report continues to say that Montazeri's trip to Qom was due to this unrest. The unrest in Qom and at the theological center continues.

BANI-SADR RELATIVE TO BE TRIED FOR COUP

LD191208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpt] At today's Friday prayers held at Tehran University, Mr Reyshahri, the president of the Revolution Court of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made a speech before prayers.

Referring to the miraculous neutralization of the counterrevolution's conspiracies, which were mainly designed by the U.S. espionage organization and which were against the Islamic revolution, he said: In Iran three conspiracies were more calculated and distinct than the others: First, the issue of the abortive coup on 9 July 1980; second, the movement of hypocrisy and the hypocrites; and, third, the war waged by Saddam's mercenary army against Islamic Iran -- all of which have the same root: the U.S. leadership.

He then reviewed the three conspiracies and said: The abortive coup, which was foiled with the help of God, was not a simple issue. He reminded: In the course of the coup conspiracy, all the internal counterrevolutionaries, according to our documents, collaborated. According to documents found later, the hypocrites organization and the treacherous Bani-Sadr had coordinated with the coup. He added: Soon one of Bani-Sadr's relatives will be put on trial in connection with participation in the coup.

NVOI URGES MAJLIS TO EXPEL, PUNISH YAZDI

TA182003 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 18 February carried a commentary entitled: "Ebrahim Yazdi -- Agent of the U.S. CIA."

It said: Documents published recently in the world's newspapers indicate that certain elements who during a specific time were able to infiltrate the ranks of the religious revolutionaries committed sabotage against the revolution as U.S. agents during the entire period that they were in power.

As we are aware, some time ago U.S. newspapers published documents pertaining to confirmation by CIA agents of Bani-Sadr's cooperation with U.S. intelligence organizations.

Inevitably, this should serve as a serious warning to certain deceived individuals who still believe in Bani-Sadr and his treacherous associates. Lately, the interesting confessions of the U.S. journalist (?Salinger), published in the French newspaper (?LE POINT), shed some new light on U.S. plots against the Iranian revolution and on the features of some opportunists. This time the subject is Ebrahim Yazdi, deputy prime minister of Mr Bazargan's step-by-step government.

According to Mr (?Salinger), the CIA set about establishing contact with certain individuals who had made themselves close to Khomeyni in Paris prior to the revolution. U.S. intelligence organizations decided that the best individual to establish contact with was Ebrahim Yazdi. According to Mr (?Salinger), more than 10 meetings were held between CIA representatives in France and Ebrahim Yazdi. The U.S. journalist considers the dismissal of Ebrahim Yazdi from the post of deputy prime minister as a great blow for the CIA network in Iran.

What has been written today in Western newspapers about Ebrahim Yazdi does not contain anything new for the true forces of the revolution. During Ebrahim Yazdi's tenure as foreign minister and deputy prime minister, the true forces of the revolution presented numerous documents and much evidence connecting him to the CIA, and demanded that Yazdi and similar elements, such as the Amir-Entezams, the Bani-Sadrs and the Qotbzadehs be investigated.

However, unfortunately, these warnings were to no avail. Yazdi's agentry for world-devouring America is more obvious than the sun, and now U.S. circles themselves are acknowledging this as well.

Therefore, it is beyond the people's comprehension how a treacherous element like Ebrahim Yazdi can be the people's deputy in the Majlis. There cannot be any place in the Majlis for Ebrahim Yazdis, and it is incumbent upon the true deputies of the nation to expel this traitor and spy from their ranks, and to deliver him to the Revolution Court for trial and punishment.